

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the discussion below.

Prior to discussing the nature of the present amendments, Applicants, through their attorney, wish to thank the Examiner in charge of this application for the courtesies extended during the October 18th personal interview during which Claims 1-2 and 9-10 were discussed.

Although no agreement was reached, an indication was given by the Examiner that if Claim 9 were amended to include the "snap ring" of Claim 10, it would overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. However, an indication was given that it was not clear that such a claim would overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on the references to Wuerth et al. and Carpenter in a manner similar to the stated rejections of Claims 1-7.

Applicants' invention has been extensively discussed in prior submissions as well as in the Appeal Brief filed on May 21, 2002, each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by the reference to Carpenter while claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Carpenter in view of Wuerth et al., German Reference DE 91/11844 which is a newly cited reference. Claim 8 has been rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103 over the combination of Carpenter and Nakahara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 176,610.

As pointed out in the Appeal Brief, the reference to Carpenter is provided as an indication of a device which corresponds to a "biasing device." The wedge 24 is not a biasing device as it simply holds the capacitor winding 17 in place. In order to further define over the reference, Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite a "spring biasing device." Furthermore, Carpenter does not show a snapping ring despite the assertion with respect to claim 10 contained at item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action. Primarily however, Applicants once again emphasize that the wedges 24 of Carpenter do not apply a radial force to the exciter coils in a direction away from the rotors and thus, there are no "spring biasing" devices.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Carpenter in view of the newly cited reference to Wuerth et al., Applicants submit that even if the references to Wuerth et al. and Carpenter were combined, the present invention would not result.

The reference to Wuerth et al., German Reference WO 91/11844 has a pole 40 surrounded by an exciter coil 6 with a winding holder 20 attached rigidly to the pole 40 and with one arm of the holder exerting an elastic force on the coil 60. The purpose of this winding holder 20 is to prevent the pole 40 from exerting force directly on the winding assembly of the exciter coil 60 to prevent cracks in the winding body. If this winding holder 20 were applied to the reference to

Carpenter, it would positioned so that it is attached to the poles 18, 19 with an arm which extends onto the coils 17 or 18 in order to prevent cracking of the coil assembly 16, 17. There is no indication that such a structure is necessary, desirable or would solve a problem in the reference to Carpenter because the problem solved would be prevention of cracking of the winding, which is not a problem prevented by or solved by the present invention. Additionally, there is no indication that, even if the references were combined, a "spring biasing device" would contact the end of each of the exciter coils. And, there is no disclosure that the spring biasing device would be a "snap ring."

Applicants submit that the references of record to Carpenter and Wuerth et al. do not provide any teaching whereby one of ordinary skill in the art would be led to combine the references to Carpenter and Wuerth et al. to obtain the claimed invention defined by independent claim 1 and the dependent claims 2-7.

In summation, one of ordinary skill in the art, based on the description in the specification, ordinary meaning of the term "biasing" and the use of the term "biasing" in U.S. patents would clearly know that the wedges 24 are not biasing devices and certainly not spring biasing devices. With respect to the combination of the references to Wuerth et al. and Carpenter, it must be emphasized that one skilled in the art would not think to make such a combination, even if such a combination would result in structures similar to the present invention because it would not satisfy the requirements of Carpenter, which uses the wedges 24 for

the purpose of distributing the flux more evenly and holding the capacitor windings in place. There is no indication that the winding holder 20 would function to distribute the magnetic flux in the manner of the wedges and, as discussed above, the winding holder 20 of Wuerth et al. is used to prevent cracking of the coil assembly 16 and 17 which is not a problem faced by Carpenter. In other words, there appears to be no problem in the primary reference to Carpenter which could be solved by anything in the reference to Wuerth et al. and, in fact, the combination would not function even as well as the reference to Carpenter because there is no indication that the winding holder 20 could accomplish the magnetic flux distribution attribute of the wedges 24 of Carpenter.

Therefore in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the references which features are not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the references, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1-10 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

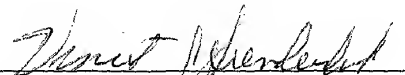
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

Docket No. 225/48731
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Respectfully submitted,

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